GEORGE GALPHIN'S CASE.

Several of the Attorneys General of the United States have expressed the opinion that the Reports made by Committees of Congress upon Bills pre-pared by them, or referred for their examination, may be safely resorted to for the purpose of construing and ascertaining the true intent and meaning of such bills when passed into statutes. This opinion, it is presumed, all will concur in; and it has been very generally acted on by those charged with the duty of administering the laws. Indeed, it cannot be doubted that when Congress adopts, in the form of law, the recommendations of a committee based upon certain facts and opinions expressed in a written report, that report must, after the law itself, be the most reliable exponent of its views in regard to the subject-matter. It is proposed to show the application of this rule to the questions involved in the Galphin case.

In the reports of the committee in 1848, and prior thereto, already published, it is stated that, by an act of Congress, approved July 5, 1832, · the Government of the United States provided for · certain claims which Virginia had assumed, to the officers of that State engaged in the public service during the Revolutionary war. It is believed that the principles of that act are applicable to the present claim, which the committee think ought to be allowed, and accordingly report a bill for his " relief."

Before showing what were "the principles of that act" which the committee declare applicable to the present case, it should be premised that on the 5th of August, 1790, an act was passed by which the United States become liable for all the claims of the several States which "have accrued for the general or particular defence during the war" of the Revolution, to be determined "according to principles of general equity, although such claims may not be sanctioned by the resolves of Congress or supported by regular vouchers," and these were to be allowed with interest at six per cent. During the Revolution, in May, 1779, Virginia had, by an act hereafter cited, promised to certain officers of her Continental and State troops half-pay for life after the termination of the war. This promise, as to her State troops, she had not fulfilled when her claims were settled under the act of 1790, but, on the contrary, had resisted the demand : consequently these claims were not brought into her account against the United States at that date, but shortly after ; first under judgments rendered against her in her own courts, and then by acts of the Legislature, she commenced paying these claims, and continued so to do at various times till 1831. The draught upon her Treasury had become so considerable that she applied to Congress for relief, on the grounds stated by the committee to whom the memorial was referred, in the following language:

"It may be remarked very properly at this place, that every claim now presented and maintained against Virginia is for compensation promised either "for the general or particular defence," and that State may rightfully demand indemnity, according with the strictest interpretation of the report of the first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States upon this subject, and the act of Congress of which it was the parent. That report asserts the obligation in the United States to provide by law for all the expenditures during the war, either for the general or particular defence; and it adds, in its own emphatic language, that 'it appears difficult to conceive a good reason why the expenses for the particular defence of a part, in a common war, should not be a common charge, as well as those incurred professedly for the general defence. The defence of each part is that of the whole; and, unless all the expenditures are brought into a common mass, the tendency must be to add to the calamities suffered, by being the most exposed to the raveges of war, an increase of burdens.' This principle, indispensable to common and mutual justice, was engrafted into the act of Congress of August, 1790, and its operation extended in practical efficacy, by dispensing with strict proof. The rigor of the law was mitigated by legislative command, to the end that this principle might be expanded to its widest sphere of action.'

Upon these grounds Congress repaid to the State of Virginia the amounts she had paid, principal and interest, in fulfilment of her promises, and provided all outstanding obligations on the same account.

To show the similarity of the obligations assumed by each State, for the same general object and almost at the same time, extracts from the Virginia act of May, 1779, and the Georgia act of January, 1780, are here presented, the dates showing that they were passed in the darkest hours of the Revolutionary struggle and under the pressure of an overruling necessity:

" All general officers of the army, being citizens of this commonwealth, and all field officers, captains, and subalterns, commanding, or who shall command, in the battalions of this commonwealth on continental establishment, or serving in the battalions raised for the immediate defence of this State, or for the defence of the United States; and all chaplains, physicians, surgeons, and surgeon's mates, appointed to the said battalions, or any of them, being citizens of this commonwealth, and not being in the service of Georgia, or of any other State, provided Congress do not make some tantamount pro-vision for them, who shall serve henceforward, or from the time of their being commissioned, until the end of the war; and all such officers who have or shall become supernumerary on the reduction of any of the said battalions, and shall again enter into the said service, if required so to do, in the same or any higher rank, and continue therein until the end of the war, shall be entitled to half-pay during life, to commence from the determination of their command or service.

The act of Georgia, after reciting the deplorable condition of the country, and stating that the rich and healthy lands in Wilkes county remained unsettled, to the detriment of the strength of the State, while her own citizens and others were willing to settle and defend them, grants these lands to actual settlers, exempting all who should come in from other States from all military duty except that of defending the same during a stated period. The act then proceeds thus:

"Whereas certain persons, citizens of this and the State of South Carolina, and friends to the independency of the same, claim that the lands in the county of Wilkes were originally given up and ceded to the Government of Great Brithe Creek and Cherokee Indians, in satisfaction of certain debts and arrears due by the said Indians to the said certain persons, called Indian traders : Be it, therefore, enacted, That any person having or pretending to have any claim, do lay their claims and accounts before this or some future House of Assembly, to be examined, and whatever claims shall be just and proper, and due to the friends of America, shall be paid by Treasury certificates for the amount, payable in two, three, and four years, and carrying six per cent.

To complete this analogy the acts of Congress providing for the Virginia claims, and the solitary one from Georgia, that of Galphin, are here given. The act in favor of Virginia, approved July 5, 1832, after, as above stated, refunding to her all that she had paid as principal and interest to her officers, enacts in the 3d section :

"That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby directed and required to adjust and settle those claims for half pay of the officers of the aforesaid regiments and corps which have not been paid or prosecuted to judgments, and for which said State would be bound on the principles of the half-pay cases already decided in the Supreme Court of Appeals of said State; which several sums of money herein directed to be settled or paid, shall be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated by law."

The act in behalf of Galphin, approved August 14, 1848, is in the following words:

" Be it enacted, &c. That the Secretary of the Treasur be and he is hereby authorized and required to examine and adjust the claim of the late George Galphin, under the treaty made by the Governor of Georgia with the Creek and Cherokee Indians, in the year 1773, and to pay the amount which may be found due to Milledge Galphin, executor of the said George Galphin, out of any money in the Treasury not other-

The reports, as before said, place these two classes on the same footing. The assumption of both by the United States was on the same principle, and was intended to be equal in the measure of justice-that measure being neither more nor less

than the basis of the original settlement in 1790. And here it may be remarked that the claims of individuals against the several States were within the terms or the settlement of 1790, provided they had been admitted by such States prior to September 24, 1788, and both the Virginia claims and the Galphin claim, but for that limitation, could have then been brought into the account against the United States.

It is true that Virginia did not promise to pay interest; yet, as she was liable for its payment in consequence of her liability to suit, and interest had been recovered against her, the United States paid it. What amount has been paid under this head can be easily ascertained by inquiry. Suffice it to say, that the relative burdens of the two States, as assumed by the United States, need not be kept out of view in justice to the memory of either the dead or the living. The amount involved is nothing: good faith is every thing; but should the amounts paid appear to be worthy of consideration, a com-parison need not be avoided.

Georgia did not ask Congress to assume the liability she had incurred under the act above cited. Virginia acted differently and justly; perhaps, too, under a pressure which was not and could not be applied to Georgia-the judgments rendered against her in her courts. But the appeal for justice, whether made by Virginia or her officers, by Georgia or by Galphin, rests on the same footing.

A "similar principle" may be supposed to produce similarity of result. A mere difference as to persons, or states, or amounts, should not produce an inequality in the measue of justice. If the officers of the State line of Virginia have received from the United States principal and interest on the promise made by Virginia in 1779, might acceptable to one and distasteful to the other, and it is as irranot Galphin justly claim to the same extent under the promise of Georgia made in 1780? Might he not claim interest on even stronger grounds, since to him it was promised—to them it was not? If the standard of remuneration be higher in one case than in the other, that standard should be fixed by party should have the higher to whom the higher ad been assigned.

Having already seen that the engagements of Virginia and Georgia were contracted for the same obect and almost at the same time, it may be readily idmitted that the course pursued by these State was different. But is the nature and essence of things thereby changed? Is the principle altered? Because Georgia did not ask the United States to assume the agreement she had made for the common cause, and which she had never performed, was Galphin to be placed on a less favored footing than those to whom Virginia was bound by a similar obligation? The distinction is only as to form. The arallel between the cases had been perfect, if Georgia had been the claimant before Congress instead of Galphin; and had Georgia been liable to suit as was Virginia, this feature in the parallel would not

have been wanting.

The course of Congress in relation to these claims commends itself to the approval of every fair mind. In 1832 a powerful State insisted on indemnity against the claims of her sons. The National Legislature listened to her memorial and complaint. Her narrative was replete with sacrifices or the "glorious common cause," and her demand was granted. In 1848, to the same Legislature came another applicant from another State. He comes unsupported, and sustained by no other recommendation than the record of his patriotic life and the justice of his demand. That Legislature did not stand on forms, by remanding him back to the State which made but had not performed the promise. It re-asserted in 1848, as it had in 1832, the principles of the acttof 1790. After the lapse of ifty-eight years, they stood unimpaired in vitality and vigor, however they may have been blighted and blasted within the brief period that has since in-

But was there no peculiarity in his case to ex cuse, if excuse can be necessary, this departure from a formal and strictly regular appeal to national In the same year, and for the adjustment and payment at the Treasury of month, Galphin was attainted of treason and promised the payment of his debt. The royal colonial Legislature, which sat in Savannah in 1780, pronounced the attainder. In the same year the republican Legislature at Augusta gave the promise. He died in December, 1780, having numbered more than three score years and ten. A few months thereafter his homestead fell into the hands of the enemy. They had possession of his body, but it had put on the " muddy vesture of decay." Nor attaint of treason, nor suspicion of treason then reached him. The sanctuary of the grave had secured an eternal armistice. The penalty or pardon of man alike paused on its brink, and he reposed quietly, whether, according to the judgment of mankind, he was a traitor or a patriot.

One other view may be proper. In the treaty of peace of 1783 was an article providing for the recovery of debts due by the citizens and subjects of the belligerent parties. This was no doubt proper and just; but, strange as it may appear, it is affirmed with confidence, upon unquestionable evidence, that the patrimonial estate of Galphin was sold under execution after the war of the revolution at the instance of British creditors, who had sold to Galphin the goods which had passed into the hands of the Indians, and in fact constituted a part of the price of the "ceded lands" in Georgia. Whoever may doubt on this point, is referred to the statement of Mr. STEPHENS, who held the appointment of Judge of the district of Georgia in the early days of the Republic.

Some Facts about Cuba .- No census of the population of the island of Cuba has been taken by the Governmen since 1841. From other sources we find that its population in 1846 was 898,752; of whom 425,767 were white 49,226 free colored, and 323,759 slaves. In 1841, according to the official census, the population was 1,007,624, of whom 418,291 were white; 152,838 free colored, and 426,495 slaves. Of the colored free population at that time 64,784 were black, and 88,054 mulattoes. The number of mulattoes among the slaves was 10,974. There was a transient population of some 38,000 not included in the total given above. There were at that time 222 schools, at which 9,082 free children received instruction; of these 640 were colored. Out of this total number 5,325 paid for their instruction; the others were taught gratuitously. We are unable to say whether the present condition of the island is in these respects in any degree meliorated.

In 1847 statistics were published by the Government, in which the island was described as having a surface of 45,530 square English miles, the contiguous Isle of Pines, and some maller ones, making a total extent of nearly 48,000 square miles. The length of the island, in a direct line from east to west, is 680 miles; the widest breadth 135, the narrowest 26 miles. From the southern point of Florida to the northern point of Cuba is 113 miles; from Cuba to the nearest point of Yucatan is 132 miles, of Hayti 49 miles. From Jamaica Cuba is distant 89 miles. The total value of the agricultural product of the island in 1849, including dairy produce and domestic animals, was, according to Hunt's Merchants' Magazine, about \$60,000 dollars. In the same year its exports from Havana and Matanzas were, of sugar, 849,748 boxes; of coffee 371,894 arrobas; of molasses 97,373 hogsheads; of cigars and tobacco (from Havana alone) 1,273,837 pounds. Of Matanzas, the white population was in 1846 estimated at 10,039; the free colored at 2,788, and the slaves

at 4, 159. UTICA, FRIDAY, MAY 31. POWDER EXPLOSION .- A boat loaded with railroad iron took on board a quantity of powder at Frankfort, near this city, and two of the hands went amidships it is supposed with the intention of stealing some of the powder. One of with the intention of stealing some of the powder. One of them had a lighted pipe, from which, it is thought, the powder ignited, producing a terrible explosion, making a com-plete wreck of the boat, and severely, if not fatally, injuring

The brig Angola has arrived at Boston from Port Praya, (Africs,) with dates to the 5th May. The American squadron had sailed for Liberia, all well. This brig brings a letter-bag from the squadron and despatches for our Government.

A Western paper announces the sitting of the Court of Common Fleas. We suppose that of course the big bugs are also in attendance at the hotels.

LOUISIA A AND THE COMPROMISE.

From a Whig Representative in Congress we have received a letter directing our attention to the subjoined article, in a late number of a New Orleans paper, and requesting us to transfer it to our columns, as indicative of public opinion in Louisiana on a great question now before Congress. We have pleasure in complying with his request:

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS BULLETIN OF MAY 21. THE COMPROMISE.—The signs of the times are porter of what Mr. Calhoun would designate "a crisis." never have apprehended and yet do not dread any danger. We cannot despair of the Republic, or fear that the perpetuity of our glorious institutions is jeoparded, so long as the people exercise the controlling power. Factious demagogues will attempt to usurp this power, and endeavor to frustrate public opinion, but the failure will be signal and complete. And yet, powerless as politicians may be to accomplish any permanent evil, they may succeed in doing a great deal of mischief. In fact, they have already done a deal of harm by keeping the public mind in a state of continued perturbation, and retarding or defeating the legislation of the country. The injury that has been inflicted upon public and private interests by the factious conduct of Congressional demagogues cannot be calculated. Six months of the session has expired, and but four acts have passed Congress. A senseless and profitless clamor upon the subject of slavery has overwhelmed and confounded the voice of reason, harassing the public ear, and keeping the mind in a state of unwholesome excitement. We were entertaining strong hopes that the conflicting parties would meet in a spirit of compromise, and as a rational alterna-tive adopt the plan proposed by the committee of thirteen. That the ultras of either side are not in favor of it, is a recom mendation. It would not be a compromise were it wholly tional as it is impracticable for either side to attempt to accommodate the arrangement to its own standard.

The people, who are primarily interested in the issue, are ready to settle the difficulty at once; and the politicians in Congress who have vainly been endeavoring to lead, must be content to follow, and obey instructions. Now is the time to the terms of the promise made to each, and that | hold members of Congress to a strict accountability—to teach them that their business is to subserve the interests of their constituents, and not to minister to their own selfish views, either of personal advancement or for the gratification of private considerations. The people want this matter settled, they are sick and tired of this interminable controversy; and they are content to adopt the compromise plan suggested by the committee of thirteen, as a dernier resort. As we have before remarked, the plan may be exceptionable in detail; it seems to be equally so to all interests; there is therefore good reason why we should be willing to take it, as the grand object is to conciliate and settle the difficulties that may eventuate in our common ruin.

So far as our own community is concerned, public opinion is all on one side. The press, with a most singular unanimity, approve the plan of compromise, and we desire our dele gation in Congress to note the fact that the public press in New Orleans, irrespective of party, as the exponent of public opinion, are positively and unequivocally in favor of a speedy adjustment of this vexatious question, by the adoption of the compromise scheme proposed by Mr. CLAY. The following extracts comprise the spirit of the press, so far as it has spoken. The papers in the city, not included, are, we have every reason to believe, equally positive in their approval, and we consider it a matter of no inconsiderable cause for congratulation that on this great question we present an unbroken front.

The terms of the proposed compromise are not dishonorable or injurious to the South. There may be, and there are, reasonable objections to the mode in which the convention of California was got up and the constitution was adopted, and to the extent of her coast line on the Pacific; but these objections equally concern the Northern States and the Southern: for we take it Mr. Webster was right when he said slavery cannot exist in any part of California, south or north o Let us contend for our substantial rights, and not for phantoms and nonentities.

The other Territories are left free to establish or prohibi

slavery within their borders, and this is all that the South has

The great point for the South is the bill providing for the recovery of runaway slaves. This is the source of the dissensions which distract the Union. Unless a remedy were applied to this evil, the South would be justified in declining is as efficient as the South can require; in fact, it could not he more so, after it shall have received one or two amendments to which no one will object.

Take them collectively, the report is a good report, and the bills are good bills. Nor do we peceive a fair reason why any one but a rank abolitionist, bent on disunion and anarchy, can object to their adoption.

FROM THE CRESCENT (NEUTRAL) OF MAY 20. We have heretofore believed that Senators from the South, with scarcely an exception, would support any measure that would restore harmony to the country, without the imposition of the Wilmot proviso. We have steadfastly be-lieved that the question of the admission of California—she having complied with all the constitutional requirements should have been taken up, and acted on upon its own merits; but, seeing the strenuous opposition to this course by a certain class of Southern Senators—their opposition, as they have caused the country to believe, being based upon the ground that the admission of California would leave the slavery question, as to the Territories, still unsettled and open fo agitation-we have felt the deepest anxiety that any plan the committee of thirteen should recommend would be readily adopted; and we are not the less so now that we are made ac-quainted with the provisions of the bill reported by the com-

We are grievously disappointed that those Senators, upon whose support of any general compromise measure—honora-ble to the South and safe to the country—we had counted with entire certainty, are the first to denounce the bill which has been reported by the committee. We now have reason to fear that it is their fixed purpose, at all hazards, to keep California out of the Union, while her constitution retains the provision rejecting slavery. It is now becoming but too evident that their seeming acquiescence in the appointment of a committee, who should report a plan for compromising all the questions in dispute, has been a mere expedient by which to ostpone action upon the bill introduced in the early part of the session by the chairman of the Committee on Territories for the admission of California; and finally to defeat it, whether coming up singly, or in connexion with measures for the organization of Territorial Governments for New Mexico and Utah. To secure an "equilibrium" between the North and the South was a main object in the programme of Mr. Calhoun. The admission of California would give a preponderance in the Senate to the free States. This, as is now evident, certain Southern Senators are determin —risking all consequences. They can do this alone by keep-ing California out of the Union, as long as she claims admis-

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS BEE, (WHIG.)

The latest advices from Washington give assurances of the ultimate passage through both Houses of the bills accompanying the report of the compromise committee. We trust that these hopes will not prove fallacious. In the outset, the manifestations of hostility made by Messrs. Downs, Davis, of Mississippi, Mason, and Butler, and the sneers and sarcasms of Hale, led us to fear the prevalence of a spirit at variance with the calm and settled determination to adjust the question. with the calm and settled determination to adjust the questiin a peaceful manner, and on grounds of mutual, b ion. The report was attacked and severely handled the above Senators before it was made the order of the day, and in defiance of the parliamentary courlesy which adjourns debate until the project comes up for formal investigation. We shall be glad to learn that this premature ex-

citement and violent opposition have subsided.

From the ultraists of the North no concession is naturally to be anticipated. They will war against compromises, be-cause it yields something—because, in short, it is compro-mise. But such motives cannot and ought not to influence moderate and reflecting men either from the North or South It is the very essence of the report that it occupies the middle ground, embodies provisions that would not fully satisfy either party, and hence addresses itself to that bedy of people who desire to see the difficulty settled, who are willing to con something to attain this end, and who are resolved that the Union shall not longer be endangered by slavery agitation. Every Senator was entirely aware that the report would embrace something displeasing to him, amid much which he would heartily approve, and that a part of his convictions must be surrendered for the sake of harmony and the Union. Those Southern Senstors who oppose the compromise be-cause all its propositions do not square with their opinions, place themselves inevitably in juxtaposition to the rampant abolitionists, who assail the report for precisely the same reasons. It will be curious to see Mesers. Downs, Mason, and Butler, voting with Messes. Hale, Corwin, and Chase, against the measures recommended by the committee.

After explaining the several provisions of the report, and the bills accompanying it, the Bee adds :

"Such are the leading views and recommendations of the report, and they are reasonable, and, in the main, just and

equitable; and we would rejoice at their unanimous adop-

The Senate's committee of thirteen have presented to Congress and to the nation a grand compromise plan, to settle, in one bill and at one time, all the exciting questions which have for many months past distracted the country, estranged brethren from each other, and brought the Union to the brink of dissolution. That compromise—like all compromises—consists of mutual, but, in reality, unimportant concessions, which we consider the great end in view—the pacification of the coun-

try and the salvation of the Union.

If the compremise bill is adopted in both Houses, the whole difficulty is then settled—the country will be pacified, and the Union no longer in danger. The angel of with healing on his wings, will hover over a nation whilom distracted, distressed, estranged. All causes of ill feeling beween the different sections of the country will be removed Ourselves and our posterity, to the last syllable of recorded me, will rejoice at a consummation so devoutly to be wished. The great mass of the people will be content. The ultras, at both ends of the Union, will alone be dissatisfied because they are determined not to be satisfied, and it would be cruel to wart their amiable desires.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

The following is the Letter of Instructions received by Lieut. DE HAVEN from the Secretary of the Navy, previous to his sailing in search of Sir JOHN FRANKLIN:

UNITED STATES NAVY DEPARTMENT. Washington, Wednesday, May 15, 1850.

Six: Having been selected to command the Expedition in search of Sir John Franklin and his companions, you will take charge of the two brigantines, the "Advance" and "Rescue," that have been fitted out for that service, and as soon as you are ready proceed with them to sea, and make the best of your way to Lancaster Sound. These vessels have been furnished to the Government for

this service by the munificence of a private citizen, Mr. Hanax Grinnell, of New York. You will therefore be careful of them, that they may be returned to their owner in good condition. They have been provisioned for three years.

Passed Midshipman S. P. Griffin has been selected to command one of the vessels. You will therefore consider him as your second in command. Confor with him and treat him

Coordingly.

The chief object of this expedition is to search for, and, if

ound, afford relief to Sir John Franklin, of the Royal Navy, and his companions. You will therefore use all diligence and make every exer-

tion to this end, paying attention as you go to subjects of scientific inquiry only so far as the same may not interfere with the main object of the expedition.

Having passed Barrow Strait, you will turn your attention northward to Wellington Channel, and westward to Cape Walker, and be governed by circumstances as to the course

Accordingly you will exercise your own discretion, after seeing the condition of the ice, sea, and weather, whether the two vessels shall here separate; one for Cape Walker and the other for Wellington Strait; or whether they shall both proceed together for the one place or the other. Should you find it impossible, on account of the ice, to get

through Barrow Strait, you will then turn your attention to Jones's Sound and Smith's Sound. Finding these closed or mpracticable, and failing of all traces of the missing exped tion, the season will probably then be too far advanced for any other attempts. If so you will return to New York.

Acquaint Passed Midshipman Griffin, before sailing, an

from time to time during the voyage, fully, with all your plans and intentions; and before you sail from New York appoint a place of rendezvous; change it as often as circumstances may render a change desirable, but always have a place of rendezvous fixed upon; so that in case the two vessels of the expedition may at any time become separated, each may w where to look for the other. Nearly the entire Arctic front of the continent has been

coured without finding any traces of the missing ships. It is useless for you to go there, or to re-examine any other place where search has already been made. You will therefore onfine your attention to the routes already indicated. The point of maximum cold is said to be in the vicinity of Parry islands. To the north and west of these, there is pro

bably a comparative open sea in summer, and therefore a milder climate. This opinion seems to be sustained by the fact that beasts nd fowls are seen migrating over the ice from the mouth e Mackenzie river and its neighboring shores to the north. These dumb creatures are probably led by their wise instincts

o seek a more genial climate in that direction, and upon the borders of the supposed more open sea.

There are other facts, elicited by Lieut. Maury in the course of his investigations touching the winds and current of the ocean, which go also to confirm the opinion that be

wond the icy barrier that is generally met with in the Arctic You have assisted in these investigations at the National Observatory, and are doubtless aware of the circumstances which authorize this conclusion; it is therefore needless to

This supposed open sea and warmer region to the north and west of Parry Islands are unexplored. Should you succeed in finding any opening there, either after having cleared Wellington Strait, or after having cleared Parry Islands by a northwardly course from Cape Walker, enter as far as in your adgment it may be prudent to enter, and search every headand, promontory, and conspicuous point for signs and records of the missing party. Take particular care to avail yourself of every opportunity for leaving as you go records and signs to tell of your welfare, progress and intentions.

For this purpose you will erect flag staffs, make piles of

ones, or other marks in conspicuous places, with a bottle o barrica buried at the base containing your letters. Should the two vessels be separated, you will direct Passed

Avail yourself of every opportunity, either hy the Esqui-maux or otherwise, to let the Department hear from you; and n every communication, be full and particular as to your fuure plans and intended route. If by any chance you should penetrate so far beyond the icy

barrier as to make it, in your judgment, more prudent to push on than to turn back, you will do so, and put yourself in nmunication with any of the United States naval forces or officers of the Government, serving in the waters of the Pa cific or in China, according to your necessities and opportu nities. Those officers will be instructed to afford you every facility possible to enable you to reach the Western Coast of the United States in safety.

In the event of your falling in with any of the British

searching parties, you will offer them any assistance which they may stand in need, and which it may be in you power to give. Offer, also, to make them acquainted with your intended route and plans, and be ready to afford them every information of which you may have become possessed oncerning the object of your search.

In case your country should be involved in war during your absence on this service, you will on no account commit, r suffer any one of the expedition to commit, any the least

ct of hostility against the enemy, of whatever he may be. Notwithstanding the directions in which you have been recommended to carry your examinations, you may, on arriving out upon the field of operation, find that by departing from them your search would probably be more effectual.

The Department has every confidence in your judgment,

and relies implicitly upon your discretion; and should it ap-pear during the voyage that, by directing your attention to points not named in this letter, traces of the absent expedition would probably be found, you will not fail to examine such points. But you will on no account uselessly hazard the safety of the vessels under your command, or unnecessarily expose danger the officers and men committed to your charge. Unless circumstances should favor you, by enabling you to penetrate, before the young ice begins to make in the fall, fal

into the unexplored regions, or to discover recent traces of the missing ships and their gallant crews, or unless you should gain a position from which you could commence operations in the season of 1851 with decided advantage, you will endeavor not to be caught in the ice during the ensuing winter, but, after having completed your examinations for the season, make our escape, and return to New York in the fall. You are especially enjoined not to spend, if it can be avoidmore than one winter in the Arctic regions.

wishing you and your gallant companions all success in your noble enterprise, and with the trust in God that He will take you and them in his holy keeping,

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. BALLARD PRESTON.

To EDWIN J. DE HAVEN, Lt. commanding. the Am. Arc. Expedition, &c., New York.

We append a list of the officers and men of the expedition :

The Advance.—E. J. De Haven, commander: Wm. H.

Murdaugh, first officer; Wm. S. Lovell, second officer. Elisha H. Kane, surgeon. Men-Wm. Morton, Jas. Smith, Edward Boyd, John Bunnon, Lewis Coster, Edward Wilson, Thomas Dunning, Henry Derode, Wm. Holmes, Gibson Caruther, Daniel Vaughan, Wm. Weast, Chas. Berry, and Edward C. Delano.

The Rescue. -S. P. Griffin, commander; R. R. Carter, first officer; Henry Brooks, second officer; Benjamin Vree-land, surgeon. Men—Rufus C. Boggs, Jno. Williams, Ro-bert Bruce, H. G. White, Wm. Benson, Wm. Lincon, J. A. Knaup, Smith Benjamin, David Davis, James Johnson, James Stewart, Alexander Daly, and W. J. Kurner.

ARREST OF FOREIGN DEFAULTERS .- Thomas Ormsby and Thomas Conolly, two passengers by the packet ship York-shire, which arrived at New York on Saturday week, were having embezzled £25,000 from the bank of Cork, Ireland. They had deposited the money in the hands of Messrs. Faber and Bayley, for safe keeping. The Asia brought with her a full description of the individuals, by which they were traced.

SALE OF PROPERTY IN MARYLAND.

FROM THE MARLBORO' GAZETTE OF MAY 31.

Col. HORACE CAPRON's property was sold at public sale on Tuesday of last week. It was divided into three divisions; one farm of 600 acres, another of 125 acres, and the third of 325 acres. The first mentioned consisted of all the improved land lying between the railroad and the Patuxent river, containing the commodious barn and twelve tenements, and sold into this country; which was ordered to lie on the table and be reinted. for \$46 per acre, making the snug sum of \$27,600. It is be printed. supposed that the crops now growing upon this property will pay at least \$10,000 of the purchase money. The second farm was sold for \$11.25 per acre, making \$1,106.25. The third was withdrawn from sale by the trustees after having reached \$10 per acre. The purchaser of the first farm was Thomas S. Wilson, Esq., of Baltimore; of the second. Samuel Cecil, of Anne Arundel county. It is understood that Mr. Wilson intends to build a beautiful mansion upon this property. The Avondale factory was not sold on that day, but was to have been sold some days after in Baltimore.

FROM CHINA.

Correspondence of the New York Commercial Advertiser.

CANTON, CHINA, FEBRUARY 25. Times in China are just now quite peaceable, and the country has need of quiet times to allow a new Emperor to ascend the throne, a political movement of some importance in China. The succession is likely, so far as we know, to be undisturbed, but who will be the successor is a matter of some doubt, as it does not usually go by entail, but the most promising is chosen. We have just heard that KEYING is influential at the capital, and no better man, on the whole, could take the helm.

Our Minister, Mr. BALESTIER, has just left in the Plymouth for Cochin China, taking with him M. Dean as interpreter, who will do his work well. I am glad to see our Government using the public ships in this way. There are many shoals, coasts, harbors, and estuaries that might be examined, without running any risk, or incurring much

LATE FROM MEXICO.

We have papers from the city of Mexico to the 11th of May, and from Vera Cruz to the 16th.

had his books passed. On opening the boxes he found inside another invoice, charging him a much higher price for the books. The first had been sent merely for custom-house use, and to enable some clerk to swear the books through with a good conscience. The bookseller, who had never suggested any thing of the kind, and was not up to that sort of game, wrote a stern rebuke to the London house that shipped the books. The answer came in due season, expressing regret that any offence had been given where none certainly was intended; they had only done in this case according to the practice of the trade, and intended, it as a favor to their

Again: It is not long since a New Yorker who was in Paris bought a cashmere shawl there for two thousand francs, and paid the money. The seller handed him a bill or invoice duly made out, pricing the shawl at one thousand francs. "That is for the custom-house," said the seller, amazed a his simplicity. No hint had been given that a special customhouse invoice was desired-nothing of the sort was dreamed of by the buyer. The seller simply did as he would wish to be done by, and as he was accustomed to do for his American customers. - Tribune.

NEW YORK, JUNE 1. The steamer Crescent City sailed to-day for Chagres, taking out 300 passengers destined for California.

MELANCHOLY AFFAIR.-We learn from the Montreal Heraid that, during a heavy gale on Monday night, on Lake St. Peter, a number of rafts were broken up, and some twelve or fifteen persons lost their lives. The steamer America went to the assistance of the raftsmen, and succeeded in rescuing thirty of them. Lake St. Peter is between Montreal and Quebec, and is considered the most dangerous part of the St. Lawrence during a heavy gale.

The loss incurred, in buildings and goods, by the fire at Charleston, South Carolina, last Wednesday morning, is esti-

elected Sheriff four times, first in 1798, and filled the office of Associate Judge of Lycoming county for a period of seventhat do not use it, and give it to hands that do use it, would

THE POTATO CROP IN IRELAND .- The wide-spread reliance upon the renovation of the potato, which appears, for better or for worse, to have infected all classes of Irish agriculturists, seems so far to be strengthened by the healthy and promising condition of the crop. Accounts from the southera counties speak in the most sanguine terms of the prospects of the ensuing harvest, while all are agreed that so extensive a breadth of land has not been laid down with potatoes for many years previous to the fatal blight of 1846, and that if the experiment of 1850 be successful to any considerable degree, a great stride will be made towards a state of comparative prosperity.

AMERICAN IRON .- The New York Tribune says : "A friend who has been for some time collecting statistics of the present state of the iron business throughout Pennsylvania, has ascertained that of six hundred furnances in that State two hundred and seventy-five are now in the hands of the sheriff, and of three hundred and twenty iron forges one hundred and six are likewise in the sheriff's hands. A great iron-master the sheriff would seem to be. Now, is it possible that fools are such fools that any body believes all these failures and stoppages are contrived by the iron men, in order to raise a clamor for the revision of the tariff."

The little schooner Enterprise, of only five and a half tons burden, has arrived safely at Havana. The history of this lilliputian craft is somewhat singular. She was built at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and conveyed on wagons forty miles to Fever river, thence she was towed to Galena, Illinois, where she was rigged; she then descended the Mississippi river to New Orleans under sail; we next hear of her clearing at New Orleans for San Juan, Nicaragua. After stopping a few days at Havana, she sailed for her destination, where her owner intends to ascend Lakes Nicaragua and Leon, thence drag her along the portage, fifteen miles, launch her on the Pacific, and proceed to California.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN.-Mr. Sielke, a man of about twentyfive, keeping a grocery store, has sued Miss Tappey, aged eighteen, engaged as a scamstress in a gentleman's family, for a breach of promise. The court has decided that the lady cannot be held to bail in this action. The rule is different as to men. The code says that no female shall be held to bail except for wilful injury to person, character, or property. The

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

[EXTRACTS FROM OUR DAILY REPORTS.] A message was received from the President of the United

A message was received from the President of the United A message was received from the President of the United States, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, transmitting reports from the several heads of departments, containing all the information in possession of the Executive relative to the subject, and stating that no information has been received establishing the existence of any revolutionary movement in the Island of Cuba, or among the inhabitants of that island. The correspondence discloses the fact that repeated attempts have been made, under the direction of foreigners entering the hospitality of this country, to get up armed expensions and the complex contents of the country, to get up armed expensions the hospitality of this country, to get up armed expensions. joying the hospitality of this country, to get up armed expeditions in the United States for the purpose of invading Cubs, and showing that the Government has been faithful in the discharge of its treaty obligations with Spain, and in the execution of the acts of Congress; which was read and ordered

FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. President, at an early period of Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Fresident, at an early period of the session I turned my attention to the subject of preparing a bill respecting the reclaiming of fugitive slaves, or of preparing certain amendments to the existing law on that subject. In pursuance of this purpose, I conferred with some of the most eminent members of the profession, and especially with a high judicial authority, who has had more to do with questions of this kind. I resource that any other judge in the tions of this kind, I presume, than any other judge in the United States. After these consultations and conferences, as early as in February I prepared a bill amendatory of the act of 1792, intending when a proper time came to lay it before the Senate for its consideration. I now wish to present the bill to the Senate unaltered and precisely as it was when prepared in February last.

The bill was then laid on the table and ordered to be printed, as follows:

printed, as follows:

A BILL amendatory of "An act respecting fugitives from justice and persons escaping from the service of their maters," approved February 12, 1793.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of the said act shall extend to the Territories of the United States; and that the commissioners who now are, or who may hereafter be appointed by the Circuit Courts of the United States, or the District Courts where circuit courts are not established, or by the Territorial courts of the United States, all of which courts are authorized and required to appoint one or more commissioners in each county to take We have papers from the city of Mexico to the 11th of May, and from Vera Cruz to the 16th.

The Presidential election campaign was beginning to cause some excitement. One of the candidates is Luis de La Rosa, at present Minister to the United States. His opponents urge that he is not eligible to the office, because the constitution declares that the President elect must be a resident of the Republic. The supporters of Rosa say that the Minister's house at Washington is, by a fiction of international law, a part of the Mexican territory, and that their candidate is, therefore, not excluded by the constitution.

The cholera continues its ravages, and its mear approach to the capital has thrown the inhabitants into a state of alarm. The cholera continues its ravages, and its mear approach to the capital has thrown the inhabitants into a state of alarm. The cholera continues its ravages, and its mear approach to the capital has thrown the inhabitants into a state of alarm. The cholera continues its ravages, and the 1st of May, there were 104 cases and 64 deaths. In Morelia, from April 26 to May 4, there were 83 deaths. At Aguascalientes the epidemic was raging severely. On the 30th of April there were 104 cases and 64 deaths. At Aguascalientes the epidemic was raging severely. On the 30th of April there were 104 cases and 64 deaths. At Aguascalientes the epidemic was raging severely. On the 30th of April there were 104 cases and 64 deaths. At Aguascalientes the epidemic was raging severely. On the 30th of April there were 104 cases and 64 deaths. At Aguascalientes the epidemic was raging severely. On the 30th of April there were 104 cases and 64 deaths. In Morelia, from April 26 to deaths, and on the 1st of May 45. At Guanajuato the number of deaths per day was between 70 and 80. In Quetal and the services of the fugitive, as asserted, sustained by the evidence, he shall make out a certificate of the material face. Provided, that if the fugitive shall denythat he was of the State from whence he fled. Provided, that

said, the jurors fifty cents each case tried by him, as afore-said, the jurors fifty cents each, and the marshal or other per-son serving the process shall receive five dollars for serving the warrant on each fugitive, and for mileage and other ser-vices the same as are allowed to the marshal for similar services, to be examined and allowed by the commission judge, and paid by the claimant.

Mr. WALKER, in pursuance of notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill for the payment of outstanding loan office and final settlement certificates, issued for imoney loaned, or for services or supplies during the revolutionary war; which was read twice, and referred to the Com-

mittee on Revolutionary Claims.

Mr. CHASE, in pursuance of notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to reduce the price of public lands belonging to the United States, in the vicinity of the Wabash and Erie canal, and the Miami Extension canal, in the State of Ohio; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Public Lands.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS IN MISSOURI. tice heretofore given, I now ask leave to introduce a bill to grant to the State of Missouri a certain quantity of public lands for objects of internal improvement, which, added to the quantity heretofore granted to that State for that purpose, the quantity heretofore granted to that State for that purpose, will make it equal to the quantity heretofore granted to any

other State for the same purpose.
On offering this bill, I would suggest that I concur in the doctrine that the Government, as the great landholder, has the right to grant to the States in which they lie, lands for the purpose of improving the value of the remainder. There are a great quantity of refuse lands in the State of Missouri.

Missouri was once a part of the territory of Louisiana. The Missouri was once a part of the territory of Louisiana. The land was granted by the Spanish Government, from 1764 until the period when it became the property of the United States. During that period of forty years, the best land was taken in very large grants. From the time that Louisiana was ceded to the United States, now almost half a century, the lands in the State of Missouri have been picked so that scarcely any but the refuse lands remain. The public lands in the State of Missouri have been picked from 1764, at different times, until 1804, and from 1804 down to the present time. For a period of nearly a century these lands have been undergoing the process of picking; so that those lands which now remain are of a very inferior quality. It is desira-ble to the United States that these lands should, in some way mated at from \$950,000 to \$400,000.

Hon. John Cummings died at his residence near Williamsport (Pa.) a few days ago. He was 84 years of age, and had been provement, has been found to be one of the most effectua means of reclaiming refuse lands. I am of opinion, with the celebrated Edmund Burke, that "to take land from hands

> be for the benefit of the country."
>
> Many years ago, Mr. President, I brought in bills similar in purpose, in many respects, to the one which I now propose to introduce. One feature of those bills was to graduate the price of the public lands, reducing the price periodically according to the length of time the land had been in the market. Another feature was to make donations of land to actual settlers. A third provision was to grant the refuse lands to the States in which they lie, for objects of internal improvement.
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> The principle of the bill I now propose to introduce is the granting of the refuse lands to the States in which they lie, for purposes of internal improvement. I am clearly under

> the conviction that it ought to be done in this case.
>
> Another argument in favor of the bill which I introduce is, that it only proposes to grant to the State of Missouri, an amount of land which, added to what has already been granted to that State for objects of internal improvement, will make it equal to the whole amount of land granted to any other State. The returns of the Land Office show that it will require 2,672,210 acres to accomplish this purpose, and for that amount is this bill drawn. The bill names two objects of internal improvement to which, under the auspices of the State, this land is to be applied. One is a railroad from St. Louis to the western frontier of the State, through the capital; the other is a railroad between the town of St. Joseph and the tawn of Hannibal, on the Mississippi river. The bill specifies these two objects for which the grant is to be made, but other effects, such as the draining of swamps, will follow. I make this statement because, not being a member of the committee to which the bill will go, I wish the members of

that they may make, as I expect they will, a favorable report Leave to introduce the bill was granted, and the bill was read a first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

the committee to understand the nature of the bill, in order

HOT SPRINGS IN ARKANSAS.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Bonland on the 29th instant, was taken up and adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to communicate to the Senate the information possessed by or properly within the scope of the Department in relation to the applications of private claimants to the Hot Springs in Arkansas, or any portion of the four sections of land surrounding these regions were from selections of land surrounding these regions were from selections of the April 1833. these springs, reserved from sale since the 2d of April, 1832, together with the action of the General Land Office and of any other of the Executive Departments in relation to such

ROUND ISLAND EXPEDITION.

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Davis, of Missippi, on the 22d of January last, was taken up and

Resolved, That the President of the United States be reexcept for wilful injury to person, character, or property. The plaintiff contended that he had been injured in all three, by the wilful act of the defendant in violating her promise, which caused him great agony of mind, unfitting him for business for a week, and so affecting him since as to affect his business severely, &c. But the judge didn't sympathize.

[Albany State Register]

[Albany State Register]